



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • (310) 358-7117 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Santa Monica Airport Update

BY CATHY LARSON, FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Aircraft Emissions

Airport neighbors experienced an unusual event recently—a reprieve from the buzzing of aircraft over their homes. The Santa Monica Airport (SMO) was closed for four days starting September 20 to complete runway maintenance. The City of Santa Monica took advantage of this time to conduct baseline measurements of air quality to enable more accurate assessment of aircraft emissions.

Residents in close proximity to SMO have voiced their concerns about aircraft emission impacts, particularly jet fumes, on their family's health. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) conducted an emission study at SMO in 2006 and 2007. The baseline measurements in the absence of

aircraft will allow comparison to data collected from previous air quality studies to fully assess aircraft emission impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Results of the newest study are expected early next year.

Sunset Park and Ocean Park Residents Up in Arms about Proposed Flight Path Changes

From December 2009 to June 2010, the FAA conducted a trial of diverting Instrument Flight Rules (IFR aircraft that fly with instrument navigation aids) piston powered (propeller) planes to a 250 degree heading placing them over dense residential areas of Sunset Park and Ocean Park. The FAA claims

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CONCERNED RESIDENTS AGAINST AIRPORT POLLUTION *presents a free to the public*

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM ON SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ISSUES

Thursday, October 21, 2010

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**S.M. Main Library Multipurpose Room
601 Santa Monica Boulevard**

**Entrance to the underground parking is on 7th Street.
More information at: www.JetAirPollution.com**

Pet Fair/Chip-a-thon — Nov 6 — Clover Park

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Fire Department, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Organizations Active in Disaster (SMO Aid) and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcLA) are hosting the 2nd Annual Free Pet Fair & Chip-a-thon,” Saturday, November 6th, from 9 AM to 3 PM at Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd.

Free identification **micro-chipping** of dogs, cats and exotic pets will be available for the second year in a row to the first 400 attendees who register. Low cost vaccinations will also be offered, along with pet adoptions.

Dog training demonstrations, pet disaster preparedness tips, Red Cross pet first aid classes, and pet registration and licensing will all be offered. The Fire Department will demonstrate pet rescue techniques for disasters such as house fires. Christina Moore from the cable TV show “HawthoRNe” will emcee, and children’s character Hip Hop Harry will perform at 11 AM.

Humans and their pets are all welcome. Cats, rabbits and other exotic pets such as turtles, iguanas, lizards, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and others must be in pet carriers. Dogs must be leashed. The public is requested to not bring pets in cardboard boxes, milk crates or other improvised containers.

Pet Contest

The highlight of the event will be a pet contest for the pet that most resembles its owner, the largest, the smallest, the most unusual, the most obedient and the most talented.

Last year 1,400 people attended the event, 380 animals received free microchips, and 28 animal “orphans” were adopted out to loving owners.

Free parking is available near Clover Park—look for directional signs. Although the Pet Fair is a free event, food and beverages will be available for purchase onsite.

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this test heading will increase a safety margin between LAX flight paths and reduce aircraft idling times at both LAX and SMO by diverting slower IFR aircraft (prop planes) out of the way of faster IFR aircraft (jets and turbo props). Residents in the impacted areas have complained to the City officials and Congressional representatives of significant noise impacts during the test period. In response, the City conducted a Noise Modeling analysis and has engaged the services of an aviation consultant to study alternatives.

The FAA has stated that only an average of 8 aircraft a day were being diverted, but residents claim there were significantly more aircraft flying over their neighborhoods. The noise modeling results, presented at the September Airport Commission meeting, were calculated using the FAA’s reported 8 aircraft per day. The results showed an increase of 3dB CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) in the affected areas. CNEL decibel measurements are in a logarithmic averaging scale.

Although, a 3dB difference is fairly significant, residents fear the manner in

which the FAA gages noise impacts will lead the FAA to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and therefore the FAA would not be required to do an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) before making the 250 heading for IFR departures permanent.

The noise analysis also did a sampling of flight tracks over the impacted areas. These flight track grids definitely appear to verify residents’ claims that more than 8 aircraft per day were flying over their homes. Residents are now demanding additional noise studies to take into account what appears to be more aircraft than the FAA reported.

Court Case Involving the C and D Aircraft Ban

Both east and west SMO runway ends are situated within 300ft of residential homes and have no Runway Safety Areas, creating heightened safety risks in the neighborhoods directly adjacent to the runway. In response to residents’ concerns, the City of Santa Monica attempted to diminish this safety risk to airport neighbors by negotiating with the FAA for (1) the installation of 300 ft

Runway Safety Areas, and (2) the elimination of faster, larger, Category C and D aircraft that SMO was not designed to accommodate. These accommodations would basically bring the airport into compliance with the FAA’s recommended safety standards.

After many years of negotiations, the FAA’s final offer to the City was substandard-length EMAS on only one end of the runway. EMAS (Engineered Materials Arresting System) is a collapsible concrete material designed to “capture” aircraft in the event of a runway overrun. The City Council rejected that offer as totally inadequate for protecting residents from Category C and D aircraft overruns.

The Council voted in March 2008, using its proprietary power as operator of the airport, to approve a City ordinance banning the unsafe C and D aircraft from SMO. The ordinance was immediately challenged by the FAA, and a ruling was handed down in the FAA’s favor. Oral arguments in the appellate case were scheduled to begin October 14 in the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On the Beat

By NRO ARTIS WILLIAMS

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Going Online to Learn about Crimes

Question: I was thinking about moving to Santa Monica and I wanted to know about the crime incidents in the neighborhood where I am going to move. Is there a way I can look up this information?

Answer: Yes. The Santa Monica Police Departments' website (santamonicapd.org) has a section titled "Crime Information" where citizens can map crimes based on type and location. The Santa Monica Police Department utilizes a program called Crime View Community. With Crime View Community, anyone can check for crimes reported in the past 90 days. Anyone could search crimes for the entire city, a patrol beat or neighborhood, or enter a specific address and search up to a one-mile radius from that address.

Citizens can also look at calls for service and arrests made in the city under the "Community Information" section of the website. The "Calls for Service" report lists all the calls the Santa Monica Police Department received and entered into the computer-aided dispatch system during the 24-hour period specified (from midnight to midnight). The Calls For Service report lists (in order from left to right) the time each call was received, the time the call was completed, the incident number, incident type, address, reporting district, beat, and incident disposition.

The "Arrest Report" constitutes a list of all arrestees entered into the electronic booking system during the 24 hour period specified (from midnight to midnight). The Arrest Report lists (in order from left to right) the date each person was arrested, the time of the arrest, the incident number, arrestee name, birth date, race, gender, and charge(s). Definitions of most charges can be found in the California Penal Code, the California Vehicle Code and Santa Monica Municipal Code.

Pedestrian Safety

Question: I walk in Santa Monica quite often and when I cross the street using a marked crosswalk, cars sometimes don't yield for me. Doesn't the pedestrian always have the right of way?

Answer: Yes, the pedestrian does have the right of way. 21950(a) of the California Vehicle Code states:

"The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection."

With that said, as a pedestrian, this does not give us the right

to walk out into the street without exercising some care for our own safety. In fact, 21950(b) of the vehicle code states:

"This section does not relieve the pedestrian from the duty of using care for his or her safety. No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian may unnecessarily stop or delay traffic while in a marked or unmarked crosswalk."

In other words, as pedestrians we have to consider the perception and reaction times drivers need when faced with a hazard. Under ideal conditions, the average driver needs about

1½ seconds or less to perceive and react to something happening ahead. If a car is traveling 30 miles per hour, that car would travel about 66 feet (44 × 1.5) before the driver begins to apply the brakes. So if a pedestrian steps off the curb and into the path of a vehicle on a street where the speed limit is 30 mph and the vehicle is only

50 feet away, there is a good chance the vehicle won't be able to stop in time to avoid the pedestrian.

Before you step off the curb into a crosswalk ask yourself, "Does this driver have enough time to see me and come to a stop?"

Remember to be safe out there. Let's look out for one another and yield for pedestrians crossing the street. Pedestrians remember, although pedestrians have the right of way once they are in the crosswalk, 21950(b) of the California Vehicle Code is a citable offense!

Security Tip: Security Surveys

A security survey is designed to assess the safety of your commercial or residential property and provide you with information on how to decrease the likelihood of a burglary or robbery. A crime prevention coordinator will come to your home, apartment or business to look over items such as lighting, landscaping, locks and alarms, and make suggestions for improvement where necessary. The department offers this service free of charge to residents and businesses within the city of Santa Monica. To schedule your security survey, please contact the Community Relations Unit at (310) 458-8474.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY SMPD NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICER ARTIS WILLIAMS (BEAT 7, SUNSET PARK NEIGHBORHOOD). HE CAN BE REACHED AT (424) 200-0687 OR ARTIS.WILLIAMS@SMGOV.NET.

Election Information

If you have not yet received your sample ballot in the mail for the November 2nd election, phone the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters at 562-466-1323 or go to www.LAvote.net.

The *Santa Monica Daily Press* October 4th “Squirm Night” candidate forum is posted at www.youtube.com. Just enter “Squirm Night 2010” in the search window.

At www.smdp.com, you can enter “Meet the City Council Candidates” or “Meet the Board of Education Candidates” in the “Site Search” window to find articles on each candidate.

The *LookOut News* has “Election 2010 – Candidate Profiles” posted at www.surfsantamonica.com.

The *Santa Monica Mirror* also has election information at www.smmirror.com.

Another source of voter information is the *Santa Monica Dispatch* at www.santamonicadispatch.com.

The League of Women Voters Santa Monica web site www.LWVsantamonica.org/elections.html/ has pros and cons on statewide and local ballot issues, a link to “Smart Voter” candidate information, and a link to www.LAvote.net which

has information about voting and voter registration.

CityTV, the government access cable channel for the city of Santa Monica, has launched its “Vote 2010” programming for this year’s election. www.smvote.org is a centralized resource for Santa Monica election information. It provides candidate statements, videos, CityTV election program schedules, an election events calendar, and election links, and covers the City Council, Board of Education and Rent Control Board races and two ballot measures. The programming is produced in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund and the Center for Governmental Studies.

Voters can access the information on CityTV cable channel 16, cable channel 77, www.smvote.org, and Time Warner Video On Demand.

Contact information and website urls for City Council, Rent Control Board, and Board of Education candidates are listed under the heading “Qualified Candidates” at <http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/Election2010/English/English%20index.htm>.

Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Marking the 21st anniversary of Friends of Sunset Park (we’ve come of age!), the 2010 Annual General Membership Meeting was held on May 22nd at Mt. Olive Church.

While attendees registered, cast ballots for the 2010–11 Board of Directors, and enjoyed refreshments, The Statmen (a bluegrass/gypsy quartet which included Samohi Symphony concertmaster Connor Vance) provided musical entertainment.

Speakers

Speakers included Chief of Police Tim Jackman, Fire Chief Scott Ferguson, Transportation Manager Lucy Dyke, Airport Administrator Rod Merl, Airport Operations & Noise Management Supervisor Stelios Makrides, FOSP College Committee Chair Regula Ziegler, and a representative from the Red Cross of Santa Monica who spoke about emergency preparedness.

Outgoing Board

member Phyllis Chavez was thanked for her years of service, for her entertaining and enlightening stories about “The Quackers” which have appeared in the *Daily Press*, and for the imaginative and artistic door prizes she has donated for the Annual Meeting each year, including beautiful photographs of flowers in the neighborhood, tiny hand-made bird houses, and Quackers T-shirts.



Kathy Knight and Human Relations Council Chairman Jody Priselac at the Santa Monica Festival.

Community Heroes

Among the attendees were former FOSP President Kathy Knight and FOSP member Jeanne Laurie, who were both selected this year as “Community Heroes” by the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations

Council (HRC). Kathy Knight was nominated by the FOSP Board for her decades of volunteer efforts to preserve the Balona wetlands and ecosystem. Jeanne was nominated by the Westside Food Bank for her tireless and inventive volunteer efforts with that organization. They were both honored at the Santa Monica Festival on May 8th, and their photographs as “Communi-



“Community Hero” Kathy Knight with her likeness on a Big Blue Bus.

ty Heroes” were also displayed on Big Blue Buses for several weeks in September. Congratulations to both Kathy and Jeanne for their well-deserved awards!

New Board

And, the results of the election for 2010–11 FOSP Board of Directors were as follows: Charles R. Donaldson, Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgkin, Zina Josephs, Cathy Larson, Gail Myers, John Reynolds, Lorraine Sanchez, and Laura Thixton.